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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2007

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AMADOR PUBLISHERS RELEASES
NEW SECOND EDITION OF
EVA'S WAR: A TRUE STORY OF SURVIVAL
BY EVA KRUTEIN

[Trade paper, ISBN: 978-0-938513-35-3.
250 pp. with 8-page photo section, \$19.95]



One day in January, 1945, Eva Krutein with her 14-month-old daughter Lilo, joined the flood of women and children pouring through the streets of her hometown of Danzig on the Baltic Sea, toward the quay where ships awaited to carry them - women with children only - to Germany's western provinces ahead of the ravaging Russian army. The night before, she had offered shelter in her modern apartment with the white grand piano and rococo furnishings to a family of refugees. Now she and Lilo were among them, stumbling toward an uncertain future, while her parents were left behind to a fearsome fate. Eva's husband Manfred, a naval officer, was stuck in St. Nazaire on the French-Atlantic coast, his shipyard surrounded by Allied forces. Eva and Manfred had lived together only two months out of the two years they'd been married.

The saga that follows is a riveting adventure, a powerful love story, and an unabashed call for the end of war. Uncomfortably settled in Kiel, Eva is put to work processing the incoming refugees. She is told that half a million have come from the east already, "with no end in sight": *With sudden enlightenment I saw the great crowd of war victims, now and in the past, that no history book ever talked about. The suffering women, children and old people, whose families and homes had been destroyed. Why were they never included in the final summary of a war's costs? Only soldiers and weapons were accounted for.* [p.43]

And not long after, when Kiel is no longer safe and they must all flee again, Eva's awareness deepens further:

. . . I realized that we, the East Germans, weren't the only ones who had fled. Where had the French women gone when the German soldiers broke into their country, the Polish women who had tried to dig themselves into the soil but then had run away? And what had happened to the Russian women when the German troops suddenly fell upon their land? Those women had gone through their ordeal long

before me. Had I ever thought of them? I remembered the young Army soldier whom the Gestapo had arrested. "The SS raged in the Ukraine like rabid dogs," he'd said. My God, what had they done? And then, what did I feel when our submarines torpedoed British ships with fleeing children? Who heard their cries in the icy waters of the North Atlantic? Who thought of their parents' despair? Who would ever give a thought to the German refugees? Or any refugees in the world? How long, oh God, would mankind continue to glorify war and its horrors? [p.62]

EVA'S WAR, originally published by Amador in 1990, has been highly praised for its engaging, novel-like presentation and Eva's exceptionally spirited and compassionate voice. As a direct result of the book, a full page is devoted to Eva (p.300) in THE CENTURY by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster [ISBN 0-385-48327-9], and Eva appears in the epic TV documentary by the same name. This month, a new epic TV documentary, Ken Burns' THE WAR, has taken center stage. The soldiers and weapons are accounted for brilliantly. Eva Krutein's story offers an important perspective to this accounting, for in it we find the lines of nationality blurred against a background of shared suffering, and universal desires.

This new edition of EVA'S WAR includes Krutein family photos and a striking photo montage of Danzig-Gdansk before and after the war. Willard Keller's color slides of the destroyed city of Danzig were forgotten for fifty years; by the time he rediscovered them, he had found and read EVA'S WAR, and was able to correspond with the author by e-mail. Recently Will found Wojciech Gruszczyński and his repository of historic Danzig photos on the Internet. Wojciech, attending college in Stockholm, then enlisted the help of Tomasz Strug in Gdansk to document the city as it appears today. With print-outs of Will's slides in hand, Tomasz stood in exactly the same locations and photographed the rebuilt city.



Eva Krutein followed EVA'S WAR with two more memoirs which recount the family's emigration to Chile [PARADISE FOUND, AND LOST: ODYSSEY IN CHILE] and then to the U.S. [AMERIKA? AMERICA! FROM IMMIGRATION TO ESPIONAGE]. Eva Krutein lives in California and still plays piano. Please contact the publisher regarding interviews. Review copies available upon request. Amador Publishers books are distributed by Books West in Denver (www.bookswest.com). More at our web site: www.amadorbooks.com.